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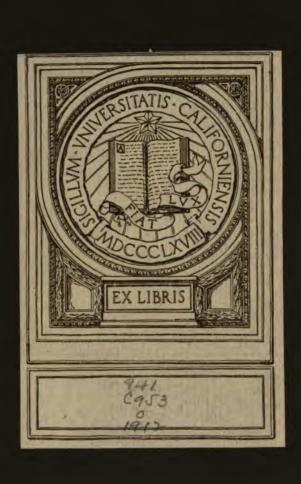
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GO VINU AMMONIAD



THE

PREFACE



Am not insensible with what Reason the following Piece of Spencer's will be suspected to be spurious, if a true and fair Account be not first given of it. I am therefore to insorm the Reader, that my Great Grand-

father, Sir Caleb Ironside, was a Schoolfellow and intimate Acquaintance of Mr. Spencer's. There are Traditions in the Eamily of many concurring Circumstances that very much tend to the Confirmation of this Assertion: As, that the Poet communicated all his Writings to Sir Caleb, before he made them Publick; whether out of Compliment to an old Friend, or because he thought his Judgment really good, I can't say. It is further said, that the Author, out of Raillery, us'd to call him Talus; there being some Assertion of the Name of the one to the Person of the other.

other Family-Reliques, I found several Sonnets and Pastorals, written by Sir Calcb; one of which describes a Summer's Evening prettily enough, where Spencer is introduc'd under the Title of Colin, walking and talking with him upon the Banks of the Mulia

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in Ireland; near which, a confiderable Part of the Estate of the Ironsides then lay. One Stanza.of which Pastoral runs thus:

See, gentle Colin, Silver Mulla weeps, And wets the dewy Shore when you lament; And eke her plaining Stream in filence fleeps, If you but smile her Pleasure to augment: Thy powerful Pipe, O lovely Shepherd's Boy, Can tune insensate Floods to Grief or Joy.

From a dusty heap of this antiquated Poetry, I drew the following Canto; which I found a little disfigured with Interpolations and Amendments, all seeming to be written by the same Hand. At the end of it was written, in Sir Caleb's Hand; This is my dear Friend and Schoole-fellow, Munne Spencer's own Handwryting; but never imprinted, because not approved of by him, though I think it inferiour to none of his Allegories. This Observation I my self further made: on the Margin was written in a small Character by the Author himself; Memorandum, To relate Mother Hubberd's Tale in Verse, if it pleafeth God to recover me from my Fevor. From whence I conclude, that this Canto was written in the Time of that Fever; and must therefore take the Liberty to dissent from Sir Caleb, in averring that I think it inferiour to all his other Alegerical Writings: which doubtless was one Reason why the Author rejected it. Several Parts of it seem to be written with an unulual Flatness, with a languid faint Spirit the Author at other times was a Stranger to: and several of the Aexandrines, at the Close of the Stanza's, were undoubtedly breath'd out in the Height of a Phrenzy. But be that as it will, we may fee by his differing a little from the Thred of his History as it now stands, that it could not be made a Part of it, though probably so design'd when first drawn. For though all the Persons here mention'd, but one, are introduc'd by him somewhere or other, yet he never represents them under such Circumstances. It seems rather that he revers'd his first Design; for he has made Arthegall to be enthrall'd by Radigund, who is set at liberty by Britomart, inform'd of his Captivity by Talus: and Burbon and Flourdelis are brought in, in the Eleventh Canto of the Fisth Book, as suing to Arthegall for Succour, after a very bumble and peaceable manner. Why the Author chang'd his sirst Design, it is none of my Business to enquire.

I need make no Apology for publishing and obliging the World with any thing written by so celebrated a Person as England's Arch-Poet Spencer; though I foresee how ill it will be relished in this Age, where the Stile will be thought obsolete, and the allegorical way of writing has been so long disus'd. Who all the Persons are he would have hinted at in those Times, it is bard to tell; though the Vices which he aims at are very conspicuous: nor is it improbable, but he might have it in his Mind to dissuade Posterity, by this Example, from suffering the Liberties of their Constitution to be instring d by the pretended Zeal of insinuating Traitors. God

forbid we should ever stand in need of such a Precaution.

I shall further inform the World, that among some Verses made in praise of the Author, and publish'd at the end of his Works in the Edition I have, is a Copy subscribed Hobynoll, which I have by me in Sir Caleb's Hand, no doubt of his composing; who also seems to be introduced in his Pastorals under that Title, as Colin's most intimate Friend. I must own, I was prevailed upon with no small

fmall Importantity to make this Publick; but the Obligations I have to those Gentlemen who persuaded me to it, will more than excuse me: I shall shortly, at their instances, and according to the Welcome this Piece of Antiquity meets with, publish the Poems of the Ironsides, written upon divers Subjects, by Men of different Ages and Genius's; being persuaded they will appear with no disagreeable Consusion in a Miscellany. For you must know, all the Ironsides have had some smattering of Poetry more or less; or at least have pretended to it. There the Reader shall be entertain'd with the fashionable Flourishes of every Age, from the Ballad of Sidrophel Ironside, in the Reign of Henry the Fourth, to the Satyr of Nestor Ironside, Esq, in the Time of Charles the Second.

I shall only assure the Reader, that what I have or shall publish, so done with a sincere Design to inform and please him, who is at liberty to turn it to Instruction or Ridicule, as he thinks sit. Though I must warn him not to censure the present Fragment, unless he knows himself to be well acquainted with Spencer, and his manner of writing: for whoever pretends to find fault before he can give his Reasons for it, will shew either his Ill-Nature or Ignorance;

and expose himself much more than his

Humble Servant,

NESTOR IRONSIDE

[7]



AN

Original CANTO, &c.

Archimage with his Hell-hounds foul
Doth Britomart enchain:

Talus doth seek out Arthegall,
And tells him of her Pain.

1.



AIR Liberty, bright Goddess, Heavenly-born, So high esteem'd by ev'ry living Wight; O how deprest with Thraldom and with Scorn

Are they who want thy kind refreshing Light?

How, when we're banisht from thy lovely Sight,

Sitting in Clouds of Darkness evermore,

Wrapt up in Errors of eternal Night,

Do we, with deep surrounding Sorrows fore,

In vain our wratched State with dismal Cries deplore?

2. In

In this fad Plight behold fair Britomars,

Alas! we must awhile with-holden see

By that false Archimago's cunning Art,

By whom fair Una could misleaden be:

In vile Enchantments all excelled He,

And whosoever dar'd him to oppose,

Soon sell, or swiftly did before him see;

Or else to them he gave a magick Dose,

By which they calmly slept, and sildom more arose.

3-

This noble Maiden, whose avenging Spear
So many Tyrant Baemies had slain;
Whose very Name had fill'd all Hearts with Pear,
Whose very Sight had caused erst much Pain,
In many a Castle fair, and many a Plain;
Of Life forlorn, or Liberty more sweet,
Was now berest, (O foul ignoble Stain!)
By one vile Caitiss whom too well I weet,
Here he came near she more lay sprauling at her Peet.

4. Bur

But she with Talm, Groom to Arthegall,
In quest of Fame was pacing on her Way;
Ne dreamt she then of any Harm at all,
Nor saw from whom she might expect a Fray:
When He, in shape of Palmer old and gray,
Dissembling, her approacht; in his left Hand
He held an artificial Bough of Bay,
And in his right he wav'd a taper Wand,
While thus his cunning Speech in comely wize he scan'd.

5

I humbly crave the Cause (said he) sair Knight,
Why in this Land, where nought but Peace should dwell,
You thus appear yelad in Armour bright,
Right fully bent some lusty Foe to quell,
When here are none but Friends that mean you well:
Let me advize to quit your sierce Intent,
And banish Discord to its native Hell;
Me here the Princes of this Land have sent
To offer Terms of Peace and happy Agreement.

В

6. With

K

With modest Semblant thus he fram'd his Tong;
But Britomaria prudently foresaw
That his diffembled Words intended Wrong,
Listing her into deadly Snares to draw;
And thus she spoke in Words commanding Aw.
Full well I know what Peace is to be found
In Papaine Country, where withouten Law
Ungentle Knights by force of Arms are crown'd,
And exercise their baleful Tyranny around.

7

By Breach of Publick Faith and guileful Art
Pull many a noble Knight they have undone;
By crafty Sleight they ever play their Part,
But never ought by worthy Valour wone.
These therefore (fatse old Man) must be my Pone;
On them I strait-way will just Vengeance reek,
On them, who Justice yet have shew'd to none;
These are the Rebels which I ever seek,
With sharpen'd Steel of my avenging Lance to street.

& The

[11]

8

This faid, she onward spur'd her mettled Steed,
And in her Rest coucht well her glittring Spear,
And faithful Talm, her Commands to reed,
With yron Flail beside her ran full near,
So that she mought no living Mortal sear.
Whereat the Carle enrag'd now bolder grew,
His Magick Wand aloft he gan uprear,
And after her with secret Speed he slew,
And stroke her so, ah Gods! the Wound she'l ever see.

9.

For foon as she th' enchaunting Touch did feel,
The Life-Blood saded in her youthful Cheek,
Her crested Helm and Sword, of temper'd Steel,
Did into Thousand Pieces crumbling break,
Ne could she with her Tongue her Ailment speak.
Down from her losty Steed she trembling fell,
And on the Earth's cold Bosom lay so meek,
Who erst could Knights and sturdy Giants quell,
Before this sad Mishap so sodain her befell.

10. As

10.

As when fome purple Flowre bedecks the Fields, With Gold enameld, interwove with Green, Which through the Air its dewy Odours yields, Fit to perfume the Bosom of some Queen; (So fair a Flowre I trow is fildom seen,)

Yet, when the blasting Mildew's dreary Bane With noisom Breath insects the Welkin sheen,

Its colourd Leaves no longer then remain,

But droop and sade away, and die along the Plain.

II.

So faded Britomaria, fairest Flowr;

Her ample Spear beside her useless lay,

Her foltring Spright in that accursed Hour

Was dampt with deadly Shame and fore Dismay:

Which cruel Sight did Talm quight affrag.

And filld his Senses with Abashment great,

So that with eager Hast he fled away,

Ne stayed with that Villain Chorle to treat,

Who toward him came with angry Looks and bitter Threat.

Me. Tho

[13]

12.

The when he had the Virgin thus at will,

He seized first her Spear and Shield so bright;

Yet thus despoild of Arms he nould her kill,

Sith Death is sweet to the enslaved Wight,

Who with his Freedom foregoes all Delight:

In Bondage her he meaned for to keep,

That she might make some Sport for Psymim Knight,

Who would rejoyce to see her wail and weep,

Emprisoned full close in Dungeon dark and deep.

13.

The Trophies won in many a Battle fair
(Foul Sight to fee!) the Villein undertrod,
And shore away her golden curled Hair
Beseeming well to grace some heav'nly God:
Her dradded Plumes that whilom wont to nod,
And from her Crest shone like the Ev'ning Star,
Languidly saded, struk with that same Rod,
Whose influencing Vayours from asar
Shed Pestilence, and all that seemed fair did mar.

14. With

With Witchchraft vild he then enwrapt her round
In magick Chains of many a mazie Fold,
And to a chalky Cliff fast backward bound,
Expos'd to sunny Heat and frory Cold;
Torment too bitter ever to be told.
Ah warlike Maid! who sees thy sad Estate
With Eyes that can from trickling Tears with-hold?
What hostile Breast so fraught with deadly Hate,
But must lament thy Lot, and pity thy hard Fate?

15.

Yet not content with this his cruel Deed,
The false Enchaunter aggravates her Pain
With taunting Words that make her Heart to bleed;
And thus he frames his Speech with light Diffain:
Small need has Knight thus guarded to complain;
What Fear of Harm while I thus watchful stand?
Then banish from your Mind all Sorrows valu,
Bor by the Powr of this Ahmighty Wand,
I can approching Dangers far away command.

16. And

[15]

16.

And as a Proof of this my Courtefie,

Which is not feignd, but real and most trew,

A trusty Legion shall be placed nie,

Of Courage stout, a goodly seeming Crew,

To reed your high Behests as is most dew.

With that a bugle Horn he strait-way wound,

Whose shrilling Musick through the Welkin slew,

So that remotest Parts more hear the Sound,

Which through Hills, Vales and hollow Rocks went ecchoing round.

17.

Effoods an ugly and deformed Brood,

That with their hideous Yellings rent the Sky,

Forth iffued swiftly from the neighbour Wood,

And round the captivd Nymph gan loudly cry;

Such Hell-hounds nere were seen by mortal Bye.

Some sew like British Bull-dogs stern and stout,

But most like sawning Spaniels low did by,

And meanly to the Wizard's Motions lout,

Performing what he would when so he cast about.

18. Yes

18.

Yet they not all obeyd his curfed Meed,
But on chaft Innocence fome Pity took;
Those Bull-logs stout of goodly Brisish Breed
With Treachery so soul could never brook,
Ne bear on injur'd Goodness thus to look.
To free sair Britimars they siercely strove,
(Sith Vertue never is by all forsook)
And joyning all their Force in common Drove,
They wow'd her iron Chains and Fetters to remove.

19.

Which when the crafty Archimago faw,

Afraid left now his wretched Work should fall,

He gins a new devized Scheme to draw,

And ties his Hounds in Couples severall,

That he might still be Soverain over all:

The gen'rous Car, and Spaniel base of Blood,

Were linkt together in one service Thrall,

That those who still his Meaning understood,

By hanging back might hinder These from doing good.

20 Thole

Those honest Hounds endeavour'd still sail sain
To work the forlorn Maiden's Liberty;
Striving with knawing Teeth to wranch the Chain,
Which did her tender Limbs to th' Rock upty:
But these the baser Whelps with yelling cry
Bet off: and still as they approached near,
Perversely drew their collar'd Necks awry,
So that they mought not see that Virgin dear,
Ne piry her sad State, nor dread Complainings hear.

21.

For this their Office good, the Sorcerer

Forth from a Wallet which belide him hung,

Threw many gobbet Offals of good Cheer,

Which they devour'd with Cries that loudly rung,

And wagg'd their Tails, and lilled out their Tung:

Yet when his Bags of Carnage empty grew,

And to their greedy Jaws he all had flung,

The unjust Carle provokt the goodly Few,

Till from their inly Maw their Loads they did upforw.

C

es. Which

Which when the other Hell-logs did efpy,
With much fell Ravin and fierce Greediness,
They lapt up that same Filth that near did ly,
And rent and tore, and yell'd without Redress,
Joying they mote the others thus oppress.
And to aggrate-their magick Lord the more,
Who much delighted in such Wickedness,
They deaft their Ears with soul outrageous Rore,
And filthy Poison belcht, of which they had much Store.

23

Thereat the others, mov'd with fell Despight,

Their noble Blood high-swelling in their Heart,

Would have ytorn the Sorcerer outright

For playing this so villeinous a Part,

At which for very Grief their Soul did smart:

Ne could the Hell-dogs stop their furious Heat,

Perdie nor Archimago with his Art;

For they impetuous grinn'd a ghastly Threat,

And with their sharpen'd Fangs the Mongrils off did beat.

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24

O now fair Britamarth' Sprite returns
With shining Glimpse of Hope's reviving Light,
The purple Blood within her pale Cheeks burns;
Once more her Eyes she opens sparkling bright,
That erst enshadow'd lay in darksome Night:
Swift-slying Joy orespreads her lovely Face,
When she beheld that unexpected Sight,
And merry Transport with beseeming Grace
Breaks forth; sure Tokens of her great illustrious Race!

25.

Like as when Phebw, crownd with golden Beams,
Through mirky Clouds that veil the Firmament,
His unrefifted Fulgour brightly streams,
And clears the Sky with Vapours overhent:
So the bright Flames that from her Eyes were sent
Disspred a radiant Glory all around,
And eas'd the Pain of her sad Captivement,
Who ky, with many a fore and bitter stound,
Past locks with into Petters to the stony Ground.

C 2

4

26.

Ah haples Maid! Fate's firm and fix'd Decree

Awhile withstands thy growing Happiness;

And who so strong to conquer Destinee,

Or the Resolves of Heaven to repress?

That wyly Man, who wrought thy Wretchedness,

Can stubborn Sprites and griefly Gorgons tame;

Albe thy Prowess far excells, nathless

If he his dark mysterious Charms but name,

Loud Storms roar through the Sky, and shake Harth's solid Frame.

27

Soon as this Tumult had the Wizard faw;
Which like a fwelling Torrent fiercely rold,
And great Destruction on him seem'd to draw;
Yet he undaunted stood and ever bold,
Counting them one by one their Number told;
To know how many did against him sight,
And eke how many with him seem'd to hold,
That he from thence mought work his Guiles aright,
And on th' Offenders execute his fell Despight.

28. Musing

[21]

28.

Musing a-while with steddy serious Look,
He nodded to and fro in pensive Mood;
Then with his all-bewitching Scaff he strook
The hollow-sounding Lay on which he stood;
The quaking Earth trembled full many a RoodEstsoons, the Glebe dividing, there upsprung
Six Couple more of that same Mongril Brood,
Who prostrate lickt his Feet with sawning Tong,
Then kennelled themselves the other Pack emong.

29.

As when old Nilss with his fatning Wave,
Oreflows the fruitful Plains of Egypt's Lond,
Flis flimy Streams the flowry Meadows lave,
Manuring als the dry and barren Sond
With Mud, that overspreds the delug'd Strond:
Soon as the ebbing Stream sinks down again,
Strange Births emong the teeming Clods are fond;
Unheard of Monsters fright the rural Swain,
And half-form'd Bodies rear their Heads above the Plain.

So this unlookt for Product quite affrayd

Th' avenging Spirit of that angry Crew,

And dampt the Hopes of the reviving Maid,

Whose Sorrows now afresh gan to renew,

At this so dreadfull and astounding View:

For now the Magick Wight, with his base Herd,

Could all the rest full easily subdew,

Ne to afflict them suriously he spar'd;

So that his threatfull Look and Rage by all was fear'd.

31.

Then with his Horn again he loudly fung,
And blew the Sound aloft into the Air,
That Woods and lowly Dales full widely rung,
And many a Lake and many a River fair:
Eftfoons there forward came a comely Pair,
On stately pacing Coursers mounted high,
Who in their Gate Majestick Prowess bare;
The Knight in Psysim Land bore Sovereinty,
The Lady was his Leman fair, and rode him by.

[23]

32.

He was, I ween, the Great Sir Burbon hight,
Whom late fair Britomartis did defeat;
A bloody, murdrous and abhorred Knight,
Who All with Rage despighteous did entreat,
To rise in Fame, and make his Empire great:
Him the false Archimago did enshroud
(Fav'ring with wondrous Art his base Retreat)
Envelopt safe within a Sable Cloud,
Else had he scant appear'd so blythe and vainly proud.

33.

Yet she, that valiant Maid, had first bereft
The Heathenish Tyrant of his blazon'd Shield,
And certes would his Paynim Skull have cleft,
Or made him with full low Obeysance yield,
But that enshrowded thus Fear wingy-heel'd
Him bore far off, ne durst he venture more
Gainst Britomare his Coward Sword to wield:
Who on his guilty Corse had struck full fore,
And bath'd his brazen Arms in Streams of Purple Gore.

34. But

34.

But at his Friend old Archimago's Call,

He foon yode forth to feize the wonted Pray;

For well he wore fome wretched Wight in Thrall,

He had entrapt on that fame craggy way,

Withouten Blows, or Dint of bloody Fray:

Tho when he faw his latest dradded Foe,

On stony Rock difarm'd and cast astray,

For sodain Joy his Fear he did foregoe,

And grenn'd aloud at Britamars's heart-breaking Woe.

35.

Yet fuch a Dread of his late bleeding Smart,
And foul Reproches ignominious Stain,
Sate deep engraven in his fearfull Heart,
That he nould venture her too near again,
So well him warned had his former Pain:
But finiling on the Treachour stood aloof,
And casting forth his vaunting Speeches vain,
Upbraided her with villainous Reproof,
And Slaunder heap'd on Slaunder, as was his Behoof.

[25]

36.

So when the wyly Spider has befet

Some gallant Wasp, bedeckt with scales of Gold,
Enwrappen in his thinly-woven Net,

The strugling Fly he firmly doth with-hold,

Who still for Freedom plies both sierce and bold:

So that his Foe dares not approache him near,

Though close within the winding Clew enrold,

But from his rankling Sting keeps alway clear,

And at his fluttr'ing Motions trembles aye for Fear.

37.

So Britomartis, though in Fetters bound,

That wicked Coward's Courage did affray,

That when her Viage stern she moved round,

His thrilling Heart was fill'd with fore Dismay:

Yet softly creeping up he did affay

His captive Shield from by her side to take,

And with light Heels it nimbly bore away

For Flourdelis his dearest Ladies sake,

Whose Portraiture thereon the Workman erst did make.

D

38. Yet

38.

Yet not that Lady which befide him rode
Was Flourdelis, but fair Romanis hight,
Who drew her boafted Lineage from some God,
And deem'd her self greater than mortal Wight:
She many Lovers had of Psysim Knight,
But chiefly with Sir Burbon chose to wonne,
Who All assayld to kill in bloody Fight,
And Thousand wretched Mortals had undone,
That would not leave their Loves, and worship her alone.

39.

Upon a wanton Mule she proudly sate,
Clad in white Robes, ensing'd with Crimson Red:
Gold, Pearls and Diamonds in mighty State,
Her whole Attire did gayly overspred;
A triple Coronet adorn'd her Head.
And as she past in haughty Surquedry,
Like some great Queen thus richly garnished,
Where-ere she cast her supercilious Eye,
All with low Adoration down on Earth did lye.

[27]

40

Fast by her Side there ran a youthful Squire,
Who did with humble Duty on her wait,
Joying he mote her beauteous Form admire;
To whom Sir Burbon promised had late
Him to advance to Knighthood's fair Rstate:
And now with Archimago gan devize,
His vainly fond Ambition to aggrate,
In Britomartis Armour to disguize,
Who seem'd his Peer to be in Height and shapely Size.

41.

So gan they foon her Armoury unbrace,

Who lay affound through Force of magick Art,

And on that youthful Squire it tried to place,

Who thereat woxe right blythe and glad in Heart;

Yet nould the Armour fit in any Part:

Which, made for Angela the Saxon Queen,

Did only well befeem fair Britomart;

Ne ever was, no ever will, I ween,

Be worn by fairer Wight, fith fairer maynt be feen.

D 2

42. The

The Treffes which adown her shoulders sell,
And veild her snowy Neck with comely Stade,
Which sinest golden Wyre did far excell,
By skillfull Art of crastly Goldsmith made,
The Soscerer shore off with Burbon's Blade,
And on his Helmet placed, him to grace:
Romania next with Menacings assayd
To make her idolize her strumpet Pace,
And all by turns aggriev'd her in this wretched Case.

43.

What iron Breast so hard that can endure
To work such Spight on Vertuous Ismocence?
Or dare to violate, with Hands impure,
A Nymph so full of curreous Complacence?
O may the righteous Gods, that recompense
With Vengeance due the Guilt of Sinners soul,
Dart Thunder at their Heads of Wrath incense!
May stassing Clouds with sorked Lightning scowl,
While Fiends and Hell-born Furing round the Miscreaus howse!

44. Bút

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

44

But let us leave awhile this Damzell fair,
Detain'd by Popuim Foe in bitter Thrall;
And liften further, while I here declare
How the was free-ed by Sir Arthogall,
Whilom espoused in her Father's Hall:
Sage Merlin's cunning Art had thus foreshown,
Though the true Knight she nere had seen at all;
Absent he in the magick Glass was shown,
And what the Destinies decree shall sure be done.

45.

That sturdy yron Man bold Talm hight,
Whom Archimago had affrayed so,
With wondrous Speed sought out this valiant Knight,
Where he was warring against Paynim Foe,
In Tilt and Giust with many a deadly Blow:
Estsoons to him he told the doleful State
Of Britomartis over-whelm'd with Woe;
Wishing him strait, ere Tyde might be too late,
To hie with him, and snatch her from the Jaws of Fate.

46. Strain

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46.

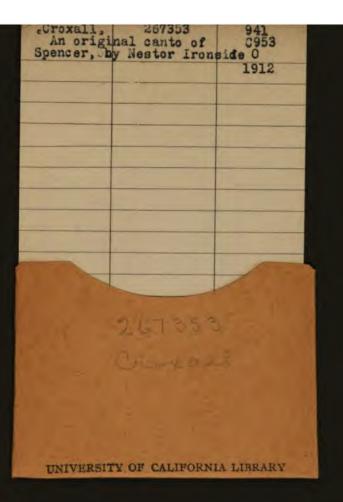
Strait without Word or Answer forth he hent
Along as trusty Talm him did guide,
In Might and matchless Arms right fully bent
To free his Love, and quelt the Paynim's Pride:
That Wight must needs be one Day gloriside,
Who against lawless Powre and tortious Wrong,
With sierce Avengement gallantly does ride.
Thus Arthegall, prickt inly, staid not long
From his Love's Lore; sit Matter for another Song.

FINIS.









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